

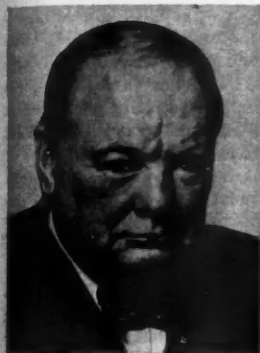
The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

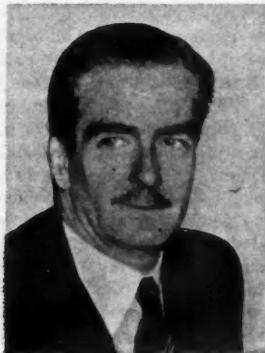
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 7, 1945



Winston Churchill



Anthony Eden



Ernest Bevin



Clement Attlee

British Elections Coming

In compliance with the War Production Board's program of paper conservation, we are obliged to reduce the size of this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER to four pages. The next issue, dated May 14, will appear with the normal eight pages. On page 3 of this week's issue appears the first report on the San Francisco Conference from Clay Cross, one of our two editorial staff members attending the conference.

It is taken for granted that one of the first things the British government will do after V-E Day will be to hold a general election. Already there are political rumblings and it is thought that by late summer elections for the House of Commons will be held. It is also assumed that the coalition government—a government in which all the leading parties have joined hands to win the war—will be dissolved and that England will return to strictly party government.

These will be the first general elections to be held in England in nearly 10 years. The last time the people of Britain went to the polls to elect members to their House of Commons was in November 1935. Unlike the American system which requires that congressional elections be held every two years and presidential elections every four years, the British system is more flexible. Ordinarily general elections are held at least once every five years, but the war crisis has impelled the government to postpone them every year since 1940 when they were scheduled to take place.

The postponing of elections does not mean that Great Britain abandoned democracy for the duration of the war. On the contrary, the British system of government is always responsive to the wishes of the people as reflected by their representatives in the House of Commons. If the prime minister and his cabinet follow policies which are not approved by the majority, they can easily be removed from office.

If, at any time, the prime minister fails to receive the necessary majority vote of the 615 members of the House of Commons, he and his cabinet are forced to resign. In that case, one of two courses of action may be followed. Either a new prime minister is called upon to form a "government" or cabinet, or general elections are called. On several occasions, Mr. Churchill

has asked for a vote of confidence in Commons to test his strength, and in each instance he has been supported overwhelmingly by the national legislators. On the other hand, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was forced to resign, in May 1940, when the Germans swept through the countries of western Europe and England felt that she needed a stronger leadership to meet the impending crisis.

Mr. Churchill is a member of the Conservative Party, the party which won the largest number of seats in Commons at the last general election and which still holds more than half of the total membership—362 out of a total of 615. Since 1935, there have been a total of 212 by-elections, or special elections, to fill vacancies in the House of Commons caused by deaths, resignations, or other causes.

Immediately upon taking office in May 1940, Mr. Churchill sought the support of the other leading political parties, as Mr. Chamberlain had done. The strongest of these opposition parties is the Labor Party, with 166 seats in the House of Commons. It is headed by Clement R. Attlee, who has served as deputy prime minister in Mr. Churchill's cabinet, and has such prominent members as Ernest Bevin, who is minister of labor in the war cabinet.

The other parties which joined the coalition government include the Liberal Party, which at one time was extremely powerful but which now has only 18 members in Commons; the Liberal National, with 28 seats; the National Labor, with five seats; and the National, with four. A few opposition parties, with a total membership of only 32 in Commons, refused to join the Churchill government.

When England went to war in 1939, it was felt that politics should be forgotten and the parties should join forces. In addition to Mr. Churchill, the most distinguished member of the Conservative Party in the present cabinet is Anthony Eden, who is foreign secretary. In fact, should Churchill withdraw as leader of the party, it is expected that he would be succeeded by Eden who, in the event the Conservatives should win the next elections, would become prime minister.

Party lines in England are more clearly drawn than they are in the United States. For example, the Conservative Party is the successor of the Tory Party of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and is opposed to radical changes in the economic and social system of England. It is opposed to the nationalization of property and to socialism in general, although it favors reforms which may be needed to meet changing conditions.

The Labor Party is largely what the name implies—a party made up of workers. Its membership consists largely of members of labor unions, socialist groups, and cooperative societies which work for the interests of consumers. The Labor Party has long favored drastic changes in Britain's economic system and would go a long way toward establishing socialism in England. It would bring most of the industries, such as railroads, banks, electric power production, mining, and many others under government ownership and operation.

Whether elections are held in England soon after victory over Germany and the country returns to strictly party government, or whether the coalition is continued for a while, the political leaders of Great Britain will face problems of unusual magnitude.

In the first place, the British government will be obliged to embark upon a gigantic program of physical reconstruction. In the field of hous-

ing alone, a great program will have to be undertaken to restore the damage. Up to last September 30, more than 200,000 houses had been destroyed or damaged beyond repair, with an additional 255,000 made uninhabitable because of damage. Houses which had been damaged but were still inhabitable reached the total of more than 4,000,000.

In addition to housing, there is the necessity of rebuilding churches, hospitals, schools, public buildings, and other edifices which took such a pounding during the days of the blitz and the robot bombings. Then there have been the industrial plants which have been destroyed. Those which were not destroyed or damaged by bombs have undergone considerable deterioration because there was not the manpower or the equipment to repair and replace machinery. The Conservative Party is committed to government responsibility in dealing with many of these postwar problems.

But the reconstruction of the country is only part of the problem which will face the British government in the future. If England is to recover from the war, she must find some way to rebuild the foreign trade she has lost as a result of the war. With a population of some 47,000,000 in an area the size of the state of Wyoming, Britain must "import to live and export to die." She produced, before the war, only 40 per cent of her food. She has no cotton, is lacking in petroleum, has insufficient iron ore. Coal is the only important resource which she possesses in abundance.

In order to pay for her needed imports, England must manufacture goods of all kinds and sell them in the markets of the world. Foreign trade has long been the life blood of the British Isles and it will be even more important after the war. It has been estimated that England will have to increase her exports at least 50 per cent above the prewar level if full employment and decent standards of living are to prevail in the postwar years. This will probably be the biggest single problem confronting the British government after the war. Its solution will depend in large part upon the foreign trade policies to be adopted by other countries.



England's postwar prosperity depends upon the revival of foreign trade

The Story of the Week



FOR THE SEVENTH. President Truman as he received from Secretary Morgenthau an original painting of the famous photograph showing the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi, on the island of Iwo Jima. The painting will be used as a poster for the Seventh War Loan Drive, which begins next Monday. The three service men are the remaining three of the original six who planted the flag. Left to right: Pharmacist Mate 2nd Class John H. Bradley, Appleton, Wisconsin, Secretary Morgenthau, President Truman, PFC Rene A. Gagnon, Manchester, N. H., and PFC Ira Hayes, Bapehule, Arizona.

Victory!

For the last few days we have been living through one of the supreme moments of human history. We have been witnessing the defeat and fall of a mighty empire, which had undertaken, with a fair prospect of success, to conquer the world.

The challenge which the fascist dictatorships hurled at the freedom-loving nations was as fateful as any that history records. Hitler said it was to be a struggle for survival; a struggle between two worlds, and that one of these worlds would be destroyed.

This prophecy has at last come true. After traveling for years through the Valley of the Shadow, the free nations have emerged victors, and the fascist world is conquered; its cities laid waste, its social life dissolved, the leaders fleeing from justice like common criminals.

When he launched his bloody adventure, Hitler declared that the effects of the war would be felt for a thousand years. The fate of the world for centuries, he thought, would depend upon the outcome of this epochal struggle.

Was this a sound estimate of the consequences of this great war? The nations which value human life, which believe in liberty, which practice democracy, have conquered dark forces of savagery and repression. Does this mean that peace and justice will flourish through centuries to come?

The answer depends upon us, the victors; upon the skill, the speed, the wisdom with which we grapple with the problems of a devastated world; with which we give assistance and hope to hundreds of millions of men, women, and children who are homeless and hungry; with which we build a structure of enduring peace.

Reconversion Starts

Recognizing the European phase of the war as virtually finished, War Production Board officials are beginning to taper off munitions production and begin the process of reconversion. Munitions production, now going on at the rate of \$60 billion a year, will be cut to a rate of \$48 billion a year by July 1.

According to the WPB, there will

soon be substantial cutbacks in aircraft, ammunition, motor vehicle, tank, and artillery orders for the Army. WPB officials estimate that at least 2,000,000 tons of steel can be released shortly for use in civilian production, along with 25,000 tons of copper and proportionate quantities of other metals.

Navy requirements in ammunition, communications equipment, aircraft, and tropical clothing are expected to rise as the war in the Pacific approaches its climax. But it is believed that these will leave a fairly wide margin of productive facility and raw material free for use in the civilian economy.

German Atrocities

In the last war, stories of German atrocities were important in rousing the people of the Allied countries to a warlike spirit and hatred of the enemy. But after the war was over, many of these stories were discredited. It was

discovered that many of them had been simply manufactured for use in propaganda.

Having been deceived once, many people were reluctant to believe the new crop of atrocity stories which began coming out of Europe with Hitler's rise to power. Even after we were involved in the war, tales of Nazi brutality were often dismissed as propaganda.

But it is no longer possible to disbelieve them. As our armies have advanced through Germany, they have come across gruesome concentration camps which leave no doubt that the Nazis have perpetrated cruelties perhaps unparalleled in history. To bring what our soldiers have seen to the American people, General Eisenhower has shown the worst of the concentration camps to parties of newspaper correspondents and congressmen, and the press is now flooded with pictures and stories which effectively document the harshest accusations levelled at the Nazis.

It has been Allied policy also to make German civilians view these grim spectacles. Their reactions furnish an interesting commentary on the way the Nazis have deceived their own people. A substantial number of Germans professed horror and surprise when confronted with evidence of Nazi atrocities, but few seemed to feel personal responsibility for them. It was clear that they had been so trained to unquestioning obedience that they had ceased to think of themselves as having any moral part in what their government did.

It is this attitude that we must attempt to break down in the re-education of Germany. Until the German people have learned to think for themselves instead of following a leader with blind faith, they will be easy prey for future Hitlers.

The First Family

Now that they have moved into the White House, the Trumans are learning what it is like to be the first fam-

ily of the land. Less than 20 years ago Mr. Truman was working as a road overseer at \$5 a day; now he has the income of a President. At first glance it seems enormous: an annual salary of \$75,000, of which \$33,000 is left after taxes; \$25,000 annual travel allowance; a yearly sum of \$150,000 for care and operation of the White House (this includes furnishings, repairs, heat, and electricity for the executive mansion, and money for official entertainment, although feeding of the 20 household servants of the establishment must be paid for from the President's private purse); and an additional \$300,000 for hiring secretaries and clerks and running the extensive business offices of the executive mansion.

However, a President has far more expenses than people think. Most



Charles C. Ross
In charge of press relations for President Truman

Presidents in recent times have gone into the hole financially—that is, they have had to draw on private income since government pay was insufficient for what they had to spend. Since President Truman has no such outside income, Congress is considering a bill to increase his allowances.

One change which is being made in White House routine is that the new First Lady will not continue Mrs. Roosevelt's custom of holding press conferences. Instead, Mrs. Truman's social secretary will provide reporters with the information they need about the Truman family and hand out official details about the menus and guest lists of White House entertainments.

Russia in Middle East

Vigorous anti-Turkish and anti-Iranian articles in the Soviet press are currently revealing the extent of Russian interest in the Middle East. Reports in *Izvestia* and other official newspapers denounce fascist activities in Turkey and accuse the government of encouraging them. Other reports point to Iranian terrorism against the pro-Russian Tudeh Party.

These developments are the aftermath of more official pressures against Iran and Turkey. Last fall, Soviet relations with Iran were strained over the question of oil concessions desired by the Soviet government and refused by the government of Iran. Although diplomatic pressure from Moscow brought about a change of government in Iran, the issue was never fully settled.

SMILES

More than two million people are directly dependent on forest products for their livelihood—not counting the publishers of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

★ ★ ★

"He insists on accentuating the negative."
"Naturally, he's a photographer!"

★ ★ ★

Sailor: "They've just dropped their anchor."
Landlubber: "I was afraid they would; it's been dangling there all afternoon!"



"Daddy, who are you going to play with when I grow up?"

Teacher: "Johnny, can you telephone from a submarine?"

Johnny: "Sure, anybody can tell a phone from a submarine!"

★ ★ ★

Asked to write an essay on water, little Tommy, after chewing his pen for a long time, wrote, "Water is a colorless wet liquid that turns dark when you wash in it."

★ ★ ★

Teacher: "And now, Willie, what is the feminine of 'bachelor'?"
Willie: "Could it be 'lady in waiting'?"

★ ★ ★

"Did you tell her what you said was in strictest confidence?"
"No, I didn't want her to think it was worth repeating!"

★ ★ ★

An irate enthusiast, who had watched his home team go down in defeat, stopped the umpire as he was leaving the field. "Where is your dog?" he demanded. "Dog?" exclaimed the umpire. "I have no dog."
"Well," said the grouchy one, "you're the first blind man I ever saw who didn't have a dog."

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Russia's quarrel with Turkey is believed to hinge on the latter's control of the twin straits known as the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. These straits constitute the only passageway between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. At Turkey's insistence, they were closed to warships until recently, seriously impeding Russian naval activity.

Russia's desire to force greater Turkish cooperation was evidenced by her recent cancellation of a treaty of friendship with Turkey. Russia wants a new treaty which would bind Turkey and Russia to give each other full military support in case of attack, and which would keep the Straits open to Russian ships at all times.

World Education Office

Although it is bound to be overshadowed by more pressing issues, the world office of education now being considered at San Francisco is of great importance to the postwar world. Set up as part of the new international security organization, such an office might serve the interests of peace and democracy by helping to raise standards of education throughout the world.

The movement to establish a world office of education got under way in earnest almost three years ago, when the British government called an international conference of educators in London. The United States formally endorsed the idea a year ago, when our State Department sent its first official delegation to the conference.

The work of the conference included the drafting of a constitution for the proposed United Nations education office. This constitution has been submitted to 44 nations for approval. Although the United States government has as yet taken no action on it, it has the enthusiastic backing of many American educators, including some 500 leading university presidents and chancellors who recently signed a memorial urging the establishment of the United Nations office of education.

The proposed organization would operate largely in an advisory capacity. It would help to coordinate the educational programs of the various nations, and would aid in the restoration of education in countries devastated by the war.

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San Francisco Impressions—by Clay Coss

DURING the early days of the conference, most of the time is being devoted to speech-making by the heads of the various delegations. These speeches are being widely quoted in the daily press and over the radio, so I shall not dwell upon them here. As the more important business of the parley is taken up, it will be reported and interpreted in these columns.

Meanwhile there are certain comments I should like to make at this time. One is the general feeling among newspapermen and radio commentators that the conference must and will succeed. I have talked to literally dozens of these persons, both on the special correspondents' train coming out and also here, and easily 90 per cent of them are hopeful of the results of the conference.

This does not mean that they think all postwar problems are going to be solved at San Francisco. On the contrary, they look upon it as merely a start on the long and hard road to peace. But they believe that, despite all bickering and conflicts, there is a better chance than ever before that the foundations for an enduring peace may be laid at this conference.

It is significant that so many members of the press and radio are hopeful, for they are, as a usual thing, notoriously skeptical. They follow events so closely and know so well the inside tugging and pulling that accompany the shaping of human affairs, they are inclined to be pessimistic in general. But there now seems to be a confidence and faith

among them that, somehow or other, this conference and others to come are going to succeed in wiping out mankind's greatest scourge—war.

Coming out on the train, Thomas Stokes, prominent Scripps-Howard columnist, told of some of the things he saw on his very recent trip to the western front. I gained the definite impression from hearing him talk that he will use all the influence he possesses in the movement to prevent such a human catastrophe from occurring again. He made a deep impression on a number of correspondents. To begin, he is extremely well liked by other newspapermen because of



Clay Coss

his human and friendly qualities. Walter Lippmann, another passenger on our train, also leaves no doubt as to where he stands. He feels that it would be the greatest tragedy in modern history for the present efforts to establish a strong, workable peace organization to fail. Through his presence here at San Francisco, and through his widely read column, Mr. Lippmann is having a great deal of influence with the press and with the general public.

I don't say that there are no skeptical newspapermen at the conference. For example, one with whom I talked this morning made this statement: "Every foreigner here has come for

the purpose of selling us an \$8 pair of pants for \$22.50."

But this brand of cynicism is not frequently expressed. The large majority of American and foreign newspapermen, radio commentators, and delegates with whom I have talked are realistic but confident. They all agree that a world-wide educational program to prepare peoples everywhere for their role in maintaining peace is vitally needed. Among the points stressed in such a program, it is generally felt, are these:

First, that no nation can get everything it wants; there must be a willingness on the part of each nation to compromise for the international good, just as the individual American states have been willing to compromise for the national welfare.

Second, that people in all countries must judge international problems and issues on their merits, and not always be looking suspiciously for a motive behind the act of one nation or another.

Third, that citizens of each country must consciously try to see and understand the problems of other countries, just as they would if they lived in those foreign lands.

Finally, when anyone criticizes a foreign country, he should first be absolutely certain of his facts; he should check and doublecheck on them, being certain that they are obtained from reliable sources. If he then feels that he has a legitimate criticism, it should be made in a courteous and constructive manner rather than in a provocative way.

Congress Investigates

More congressional investigating committees are now in action than at any time since the war began. There are at least a dozen special committees of either the Senate or the House at work inquiring into affairs of national importance, as well as some three dozen sub-groups of standing committees. They are touring warfronts, visiting various parts of the United States, and holding hearings in Washington in an effort to accumulate first-hand information on almost every issue of current importance.

Investigating committees can per-

form important services for Congress and the nation by laying bare situations which should be corrected. The record of the Senate's War Investigating Committee, formerly headed by President Truman, illustrates their constructive power. This committee showed numerous instances of waste and inefficiency in the conduct of the war effort and successfully prodded government policy makers into doing something about them.

On the other hand, investigating committees may be exploited by individual congressmen who wish to win personal notoriety or to persecute political enemies. Congress is very reluctant to turn down a request for an investigation, and it is doubtless true that many unnecessary ones have been conducted. But in the long run, the usefulness of congressional investigations has overbalanced their less desirable aspects.

Switzerland's Position

Although the Swiss have managed to preserve their neutrality through two world wars, they have not been able to keep entirely clear of the struggles raging around them in this one. Regarded with grave mistrust by the Russians, they also attracted British and American criticism by maintaining trade relations with the Axis in fulfillment of prewar agreements.

But Switzerland's reputation among the Allies will stand or fall according to her treatment of Axis refugees. Already there are rumors of prominent Nazi leaders attempting to escape Germany and find sanctuary in Switzerland. The Swiss have committed themselves not to admit any of those responsible for the crimes of the Nazi regime, and on their fulfillment

of this obligation will depend many things important to their future prosperity.

The Swiss economy is largely dependent upon foreign trade. Limited in her own resources, Switzerland must look to imports for part of her food and for some of the raw materials needed in her manufactures. Should the Allies cut off her foreign trade, the country would suffer almost fatal economic dislocations.

In spite of their precarious international position, however, the Swiss have shown no eagerness to join the new world security body now being framed at San Francisco. As neutrals, they were, of course, ineligible to send delegates to the conference, but it is believed that they might hope for admission to the new world peace body at some future time. Swiss leaders feel at present, however, that membership would jeopardize their neutrality. Switzerland entered the League of Nations only with the reservation that her neutrality be respected.

Threat of Inflation

Runaway inflation is one of the more terrifying problems which may soon face the German people. Reports from the Reich indicate that the people are fast losing confidence in their paper currency; merchants prefer to be paid not with marks, but rather with goods—bread, coffee, alcohol, tobacco, gold, or ration coupons.

This trend recalls the years after the last war when German money completely lost its value, and skyrocketing prices caused more suffering than the war itself had brought. At the worst point, in 1923, it cost \$1,200,400,000.00 to buy a shirt which was priced at \$2.50 when the war ended and only \$1.00 in 1913.



"We are now entering the dire sink of iniquity," said Winston Churchill to the British troops as they stood on the banks of the Rhine. As the Allied armies have penetrated into Germany they have uncovered sights of horror undreamed of by civilized man. These British Tommies, held as prisoners of war by the Nazis, were but one of many signs of Nazi barbarism.

Handling U. S. Veterans' Problems

DURING recent months the problems of returning veterans have received increasing attention from many quarters. The Veterans' Administration, which bears the weight of responsibility for helping our discharged service men returning to civilian life, has been severely criticized. Already more than a million and a half men and women have been discharged from our armed forces and with the end of the war in Europe the numbers will greatly increase and the effects of any inefficiency will be more widely felt. Eventually at least 12 million more men and women will be entitled to look to the Veterans' Administration for help.

We cannot tell whether or not the Veterans' Administration is falling down on its job until we know what that job is. A study of the history of the agency, created by executive order in 1930, shows that its duties have grown much heavier since the beginning of World War II. Until that time the Veterans' Administration had been chiefly concerned with providing the benefits allowed veterans of the First World War.

Veterans of World War I received (1) monetary benefits such as compensation and pensions for disabled veterans and dependents of deceased veterans; retirement pay for disabled officers; and insurance; (2) medical treatment, hospital and domiciliary care (in soldiers' homes) for discharged veterans; and (3) burial and funeral expenses.

The veteran who emerges from this war is entitled to many benefits. He may receive from \$11.50 up to \$115 a month for disabilities that result from service as a member of the armed forces. He will be paid on the basis of his impaired earning power. The disability may be the result of wounds, illness, or something else relating to his military service.

If the veteran has lost some part of his body in the course of the war, he will receive additional payments. These range from \$35 a month if he has lost an eye, a leg, or an arm, to the top monthly sum of \$265 if he has lost, say, both hands and both feet. If he needs hospital care he gets it free of charge at a veterans' hospital, or he may be treated at government expense outside if his condition was caused or aggravated by military service.

Administering these benefits alone would have increased the work load of the agency considerably, but in addition, it has been made responsible for retraining disabled men for new jobs and has been named chief executor for the G.I. Bill of Rights. (See THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, November 6, 1944.)

This legislation, called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, provides additional benefits. They include educational aid, loans for purchasing homes, farms, or business property, readjustment allowances for unemployed veterans, and special aid in finding employment. Although the Veterans' Administration itself will not handle all these benefits directly, it is responsible for seeing that the agencies named carry out the provisions of the law. It is also the primary source of information for the veteran. It should see that every discharged serviceman and woman knows what benefits are allowed and how to go about getting them.

These are the duties which will probably make the Veterans' Administration one of the largest postwar government agencies. Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, administrator of Veterans' Affairs, recently told a congressional committee that the expansion of his agency is still in its initial stages and by far the greater part is yet to come. Comparative figures show that a great increase in demands made on the agency has already taken place.

At the end of February, 1943, the agency had only 32,435 World War II disability claims filed. By last February, there were 693,146 such claims, or more than 23 times as many as two years previously. Other work has increased as much as 30 times in two years.



The growing army of veterans of World War II are already taxing the facilities of the Veterans' Administration

Naturally the operation of such a vast organization is highly departmentalized. The main office is in Washington, D. C., where the policy-making officials are stationed. The actual services to veterans are usually rendered through 53 regional offices, facilities (the Veterans' Administration term for hospitals and soldiers' homes), and field offices located throughout the country.

The veteran finds that the regional offices have a guardian service, issue loan guarantees on homes, farms, and businesses, and give him information on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration.

Much of the work of the Veterans' Administration consists of providing medical care and hospitalization for veterans. It operates 94 hospitals, 51 of which give general medical and surgical care. There are 30 neuropsychiatric hospitals and 13 for the care of tuberculous patients. Ten of these provide living space for men not sick enough to be hospitalized, but unable to work.

By March of this year, out of a total of 91,133 beds in veterans' hospitals, 77,142 were occupied and of these, 18,345 patients were from World War II. This means that already almost a fourth of the patients being cared for are casualties of this war. This is only a fraction of the total number who must eventually be treated. Most of the casualties of this war are still in

Army and Navy hospitals. When they are discharged from the service, they become veterans and are then eligible for treatment in the Veterans' hospitals.

Another field in which the Veterans' Administration operates on a grand scale is life insurance. The total amount of life insurance on the books of all the commercial companies in this country is only slightly over 140 billion dollars. Since 1940, when National Service Life Insurance was set up, the Veterans' Administration has received applications representing over 131 billion dollars, more than three times the amount issued in the last war.

From these examples of the scope of activities carried on by the Veterans' Administration its job appears to be an almost super-human one. Indeed,

number of workers at only 14 per cent.

Even before the war the quality of medical care given in veterans' hospitals had been seriously questioned. Prominent medical authorities have used such phrases as "the backwaters of American medicine," and "third-rate treatment" in referring to practice in what they feel should be our best hospitals. Comparisons have been made with the medical care provided by our military services, and the Veterans' Administration has come off badly in the opinion of many investigators.

Overcrowding, which has been named as one of the worst features of some veterans' hospitals, could be eliminated by leasing resort hotels, as the Army and Navy did, until new hospitals can be built. Those who have visited hospitals plead that patients be considered as individuals rather than as "cases."

Critics of other phases of Veterans' Administration work suggest that there should be more coordination between the agency and the 62 separate groups which it recognizes as authorized to deal with veterans' problems. They are in general agreement that the greatest need is for establishment of single information-and-service centers in each community, where the returning service man can go for reliable and speedy help on all his problems.

The veterans themselves are frequently disillusioned by their experiences. They are not ungrateful, but they are bewildered by the evidences of lack of planning. They go to one place for a job, to another for legal advice, to still another for medical service, somewhere else for financial aid, and sometimes become so discouraged that they give up entirely.

NEWS QUIZ

1. When did England hold her last general elections for the House of Commons?
2. Why is it relatively easy for the British people to change their prime minister and cabinet?
3. Explain the principal differences in philosophy between the Conservative Party and the Labor Party. Name the leader of each party.
4. Why will the postwar government of England have to play an important role in the country's economic life?
5. Why is foreign trade essential to Britain's prosperity?
6. What are some of the principal functions of the Veterans' Administration?
7. Cite examples to show how these duties have increased since World War II.
8. What are some of the criticisms which have been leveled at the Veterans' Administration?
9. Name six of the benefits to which a veteran of this war is entitled.
10. What facilities does your community provide for veterans?

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